

A bridge across the Pattanapuram river was necessary at Muttattukadavu. During the rainy season and at night during other seasons people found it dangerous to cross the river. The bridge would facilitate traffic along the road to the Pattanapuram and Kunnikod markets and to the Kunnikod railway station. A bridge should therefore be constructed at the above place at an early date.

The wet lands on the upper reaches of the Punalur river were damaged by overflow of water from above the Paper Mills dam. During summer, the water was rendered unfit for use by stagnation. The defect could be removed by a sluice being provided in the dam. That would not affect the working of the mill because, during the rainy season, there would be sufficient water for the use of the mill even with the sluice open. In summer, the water power was not being used by the mill which then used only a steam-engine.

The Vernacular Middle School, Punalur, needed removal from its existing insanitary site and the Government were considering the question of erecting new buildings. In view to minimise the expenditure on account of the acquisition of site and the construction of buildings, the member suggested that the local hospital be removed to the camp-shed and the Palace used by Hindu officers on tour be set apart as the camp-shed. The school buildings could then be erected on the site of the hospital.

In the absence of a Vernacular Middle School for girls at Punalur, the girls passing out of the local Primary School were forced to attend the Middle School for boys. That was not desirable. The strength of the Primary School for girls was 200. Class V should therefore be opened from the next academic year.

A savings bank branch should be opened at the Kunnikod Anchal office. The proposal involved no additional expenditure.

The *satram* at Punalur was in a neglected condition. The flooring was spoiled by stray cattle and the doors were unfit for use. Arrangements should be made for its proper maintenance.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai, as regards the completion of the first portion of the Parakkattu-Kunnikod road, an estimate has been sanctioned and work is under progress and will be completed this year. As regards the second section of the road of which you spoke now, the line is being investigated.

The taking over the village road from the Quilon-Shencotta road, 19th mile, to Pattanapuram will necessitate an expenditure of Rs. 10,000 or so, for 8 miles. The Chief Engineer will see whether he can afford it next year and whether there is no other work more urgent requiring expenditure.

As regards the construction of culverts and bridges, action is being taken and work has been started already.

As regards the construction of a dam at Neduvannur, the Divisional Officer has been asked to report on the possibilities of constructing it. The Chief Engineer will also report on the possibility of construction of a bridge at Muttattukadavu.

I do not quite understand what you spoke about a sluice in the Paper Mills dam. If you will discuss the matter with the Divisional Officer he will, I expect, do the needful.

Regarding the removal of the Vernacular Middle School at Punalur to a more suitable place, the Divisional Officer has suggested a new site and the matter is now under correspondence with the Director of Public Instruction.

The Assembly adjourned for lunch at 1-35 p. m. and re-assembled at 2-10 p. m.

99. Needs of the Pattanapuram taluk

Mr. C. PERCY BHANU (*Member, Nominated*) emphasised the need for the establishment of a Munsiff's Court at Punalur. All the civil cases relating to the Pattanapuram taluk had to be filed in the Kottarakara Munsiff's Court, which was 28 miles away from the eastern portions of the taluk. The litigant public were put to much difficulty, especially as there were no proper means of communication in the taluk. More than half the number of cases filed in the Kottarakara Munsiff's Court were

from Pattanapuram. If a new Munsiff's Court could not be opened at Punalur, the Additional Munsiff's Court at Kottarakara might be transferred to Punalur or in the alternative the local Tahsildar made a Tahsildar-Munsiff. Failing both, the Village Panchayat Regulation should be brought into operation in Pattanapuram also.

The need for a new building for the local Vernacular Middle School for boys had been urged upon the Government at previous sessions of the Assembly. The expenditure could be reduced if a building be constructed on the vacant land adjacent to the existing school premises.

There were only 4 classes in the local Vernacular School for girls and consequently, girls studying in the higher classes had to attend the Boys' School. That was not a satisfactory arrangement. The Primary School for girls should therefore be raised to the standard of a Middle School.

Many places in the Pattanapuram taluk were hilly and malarial. Teachers employed there should be given a special allowance as in the case of the employes on the High Range.

The minimum strength of a class in a private school eligible for grant-in-aid was 25. The minimum should be reduced to 20, in hilly tracts in consideration of their scanty population.

There were many registered holdings around the Pitavur, Piravantur, Kadakkaman and other forest reserves. Those reserves were of no use to the Forest Department but were a source of trouble to the adjoining registry-holders. It would be advantageous to disafforest and assign them in small blocks. The rule that two chains width of land around the wet lands inside reserves should be assigned to the owners was not brought into operation. Consequently, the agriculturists were prevented by the Forest authorities from taking cattle, manures, seeds, etc., to their wet lands. There were many swampy areas such as Kalyanikarikkam, Vattaman yela, Cheria Cheenikala, Valia Cheenikala, Karikuttikala, situated within the reserved forests of the taluk. It would be a great benefit if they could be assigned for cultivation.

Pattanapuram was mainly an agricultural taluk. But only a sum of Rs. 2,000 was provided annually for agricultural loans in the taluk. That was insufficient and more money should be provided for the purpose in future. Arrangements should also be made for distributing the sum in small loans to all applicants. The Agricultural Department should bestow greater attention on the taluk by the opening of demonstration farms and inspection of markets, with a view to instruct the ryots assembled there on agricultural matters, etc.

A Veterinary Hospital was an absolute necessity. If one could not be immediately opened, it would be enough if the Veterinary doctor at Shencotta be asked to visit Punalur at least twice a week.

All *perambokes* in the taluk suitable for cultivation or habitation, except those covered by roads, canals and temples, should be transferred to *tarisu* and assigned to the people.

Under public works, the member wanted the early construction of (a) the Anchal-Meenkulam road ; (b) the Kunnikod-Pattazhi-Enattu road ; (c) the Kunnikod-Anchal road ; and (d) the Punalur-Tadikad road. The Mylam canal should be deepened or a dam constructed at a convenient place for irrigating the adjoining wet lands.

The lands situated on either side of the Punalur river for a distance of about ten miles above the Paper Mills dam were subject to floods and consequent damage during the rainy season. The river in that portion had been silted up as there were no sluices in the dam. The river water was also rendered unfit for use in summer by stagnation. A sluice should therefore be constructed in the dam.

The premises of the Punalur market were very small and situated near the railway station and consequently, the adjacent public road was crowded during market days. The premises should be extended and enclosed by means of compound walls.

The number of train services should be increased and fixed at convenient times in the morning and evening between Punalur and Quilon. The motor coach service recently introduced had improved matters. But the timings required slight alterations. The services should be introduced on Sundays also.

The mail train proceeding from Quilon to Madras stopped at Punalur alone. Arrangements should be made for its halt at Avanisvaram also.

For purposes of Legislative Council elections, Pattanapuram and Shencotta together could return only one member. The two taluks were radically different both in physical and economic aspects. The extreme distance between the two was 50 miles. Pattanapuram should be made a separate constituency for purposes of Legislative Council elections.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Percy Bhannu, the High Court do not see any necessity for a Munsiff's Court at Punalur and they are the best judges.

As regards the Middle School for boys I have already given my answer in reply to the other member for Pattanapuram.

As regards the Vernacular Middle School for girls, to begin with, there is no accommodation. Secondly, it is not the policy of the Education Department to graft on Middle School classes to departmental schools. But the Director has thrown out another suggestion that if a private school is started there to teach up to the higher classes he would be prepared to give the matter his consideration.

As regards the question of special local allowance to teachers employed in hilly tracts, I am not aware that there are mountainous or unhealthy tracts in the Pattanapuram taluk.

Then, as regards the question of affording adequate aid to private aided schools in your place, I do not think there is any room for complaint in that matter. Like the rest of Travancore, the aided schools in your place also receive generous assistance from the department.

In regard to agricultural loans, I understand that the Revenue Department gives the Pattanapuram taluk its fair share of loans in proportion to other taluks.

The Director of Agriculture is arranging for a Veterinary Inspector to inspect your place twice a week, and, if after some experience that is found insufficient, the question of a special Veterinary Inspector for your place will be taken up.

You have heard what I said in regard to the Paper Mills dam.

Your suggestion that the Mail train should stop at Avanisvaram will be conveyed to the Railway authorities and they will be asked to arrange this as an experimental measure from the 1st of April next.

I am not prepared at present to revise the Electoral Roll. We cannot rearrange the constituency at present.

MEMBER : Boys' School—

DEWAN : As regards the Boys' School I have already given a reply—the same reply that I gave to the other member. A site has been selected and your suggestion will be considered.

100. Needs of the Shencotta taluk.

Mr. S. K. SUBRAHMANYA AIYAR (*Member, Shencotta taluk*) first spoke about the necessity for opening a railway station at Anantapuram situated on the Tenkasi-Virudunagar line under construction. It was a central place and was easily accessible from the main villages of Elattur, Ayikudi, Klangad and Samburvadakara. The inhabitants of those *pakuthies* were obliged to go to the Valliammapuram railway station three miles away after crossing many *kals* and rivers flooded during the major part of the year. The matter had been brought to the notice of the benign Government but they decided that the opening of a station at Anantapuram was not practicable. The Chief Commercial Superintendent of Trichinopoly had also written to the member in reply to a representation made on the subject that the question of